

REMARKS

Claims 16-28 remain pending in the application (Claims 1-15 having been previously cancelled), with Claims 16, 20 and 24 being independent.

Claims 16-28 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the previous obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 16-28 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1, 7-8 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,999 for the reasons set forth at pages 3-4 of the Action.

Applicants have prepared and submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to disclaim the terminal portion of any patent issuing upon this application that may extend upon the full statutory term of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,999.

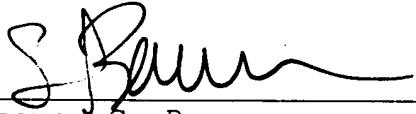
Upon entry of this paper and Terminal Disclaimer,
Applicants submit that the subject application is in condition
for allowance.

This paper represents an earnest attempt at advancing
prosecution on the merits, and thus Applicants respectfully
submit that entry hereof is proper.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration and
passage to issue of the present case are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by
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Respectfully submitted,



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